

The Box Bulletin

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*CMTC OpsGrp
Change of
Command*

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Front Cover: CMCT's new commander receives the guidon for CMTC Operations Group from Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, commander of 7th ATC. (Photo by Gerry Arbios)

The Box Bulletin



**Brian T. Boyle, Colonel, Commander,
USA Garrison Grafenwoehr**

Gerry Arbios, Public Affairs Officer

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282bsb.pao@cmtc.7atc.army.mil

New commanders at CMTC Hohenfels

During the month of July, three commands at CMTC received new leaders. On July 13, Lt. Col. G. Randall Copeland turned over command of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, to Lt. Col. Timothy R. DeLass at Warrior Field. Copeland heads to a special assignment at the Pentagon.

DeLass comes to Hohenfels from his recent assignment as Professor of Military Science at the University of Iowa. He received an ROTC commission into the infantry from Norwich University, Vermont, in 1986. He holds a degree in Business Administration and a master's in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University, Calif.

The 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, was reactivated in 1990 and assigned to the 7th Army Training Command as the Opposing Forces battalion for Army units stationed in Europe as well as international military units. In 2004, the Battalion deployed Alpha Company to Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul where the Company earned the Army Meritorious Unit Citation.

Col. Thomas S. Vandal took over the reins of the CMTC Operations Group from Col. H. Mike Davis on July 15 at the Hohenfels Army Airfield. Davis leaves Hohenfels for his next assignment as Chief of Staff, Combined Arms Center - Training, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Vandal comes to this position from an assignment with the 75th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he



Above, Lt. Col. Timothy R. DeLass receives the guidon from Col. Mike Davis (at right), commander, CMTC Operations Group.

deployed to Iraq. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1982 where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery. He was awarded a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University in 1986 and a Master of Science in National Security Studies from the National War College in 2003.

The Combat Maneuver Training Center was formed at Hohenfels in 1987 and is composed of the Operations Group consisting of the staff, the Observer/Controller teams and the Opposing Force, 1-4 Infantry. The CMTC has become USAREUR's main proponent and
(*Changes of Command Contd. on Page 4*)

The July/August *Box Bulletin* spotlights the 100th ASG Soldier of the Year, Pfc. Peter Suh, 282nd BSB, DPTMS

Pfc. Suh came from his Advanced Individual Training to Hohenfels where he joined the BSB's Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security Office in December 2004. He is taking classes for a degree, majoring in psychology. An amateur rock climber, Suh performed climbing demonstrations during Summer Safety Day. A California guy, he is an avid surfer, and likes to snowboard in the winter. In Germany, he also enjoys the nightlife.



Before I start . . .

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read my column. My family and I are very appreciative of the warm welcome we received as we transitioned into command of the 282nd BSB. As this is my first column for the Box Bulletin, I'd like to take a few moments to explain to you my vision for the BSB as we support your mission and our community during my tenure as commander. Our Army is entering its fifth year in the Global War on Terrorism, and the 282nd BSB is a supporting effort in that war. The BSB will execute its supporting role during my command by focusing on four areas – protecting the force, supporting tenant unit missions, creating a hometown atmosphere throughout the community, and communicating effectively.

Protecting the force – My most significant command responsibility is to make Hohenfels a safe place for members of our community to live and work. The most obvious part of this responsibility is anti-terrorism. We will continuously assess the threat and adjust our response and preparations to that threat. However, force protection goes beyond inspections, fences, guards, and gates. It also extends to work place safety, accident prevention, fire safety, family advocacy programs, sexual assault programs, EO and EEO, drug and alcohol counseling, community policing, water and sewage treatment, environmental monitoring, and the list goes on. Throughout my command, a large percentage of the BSB's resources will be devoted to assessing our force protection programs, soliciting your input, and adjusting our programs to meet the changing needs of our community.

Supporting tenant unit missions – The 282nd BSB exists solely to support the CMTC Operations Group, 1-4 Infantry Battalion, E/3/58 AVN, A/94 Engineers, A/1st MI (UAV), 66th MI Detachment, 112 MP Company (-), 615 MP Company (-), 560th MP Customs, K-9 Detachment/ 554 MP Company, Hohenfels Branch Office CID/ 262nd MP Detachment, NSC 69th Signal, 21st DET 2/529 Ordnance Company, VET Detachment, Detachment D/38th PSD, 4th PLT/38th Postal, 106 Finance Detachment, and the ERMIC detachments in our Medical and Dental Clinics. I will use the resources of the BSB to the fullest extent allowed by law and regulation to support your mission. When Soldiers come to train at Hohenfels, we will fully integrate the BSB into the training planning process to best support the Operations Group, 1-4 Infantry, and the BLUFOR unit throughout the training rotation. When you deploy from Hohenfels, we will support your pre-deployment training, movement out of Central Region, rear detachment operations, and families while you are down range.

When you return, we will provide a warm welcome and assist with your reintegration.

Creating a hometown atmosphere – Hohenfels is our home and one of the Army's best kept secrets. Although, if we keep winning Army level dining facility awards, youth baseball tournaments, and high school basketball games, the secret is going to get out. I will focus my hometown building efforts on how we identify, welcome, and in-process new members of our community. I will reach out to the youth of our community and get them involved. I will begin youth town hall meetings where my staff and the youth of the community will have the opportunity to work together to improve life for our community's families. I will expand the youth sports program to provide opportunities for our children to participate in the same sports programs as children stationed elsewhere in USAREUR. I will work with the BOSS program to fully integrate single Soldiers into our community and encourage them to work with our youth as coaches and mentors. I'd like to see full community involvement when our Hohenfels High School plays home games with the stands full of single Soldiers and families who don't have a player on the team in addition to the moms and dads in the crowd. Too often as Soldiers we treat our place of assignment as transitory and focus our dreams of hometown and family on life after the Army only to discover that our family has grown up and left before we retire and find a hometown. I encourage you not to do that with Hohenfels. Your hometown is right here and right now.

Communicating effectively – For me to understand your needs and you to understand the efforts of the BSB, effective communication is essential. We communicate in many ways and I like to refer to each of our means of communication as a "channel." Examples of current channels include: the Box Bulletin you are reading, Community Information Exchange meetings, the Command Channel on your TV (if you live on post), AFN radio, the daily community email you receive from the PAO, posters, bulletin boards, and the big red scrolling light board in front of the bank. I will examine each of our channels of communication, eliminate those that are unnecessary or redundant, add any that are required, and make a concerted effort to communicate with one voice as efficiently as possible.

That pretty much does it for my first column. I just wanted to make sure you knew where I was going before I got started. Thanks for everything you do for our community and for our country.

V/R

Lt. Col. James Matheson

The July/August *Box Bulletin* spotlights the 100th ASG NCOIC of the Year, Staff Sgt. Peter Delcourt, HHD, DES

Staff Sgt. Delcourt joined the Army in June 2001 with more than five years of service in the U. S. Marines. He came to Hohenfels in March 2003 where he was assigned to the MPs as desk sergeant. He is a third year college student majoring in criminal justice. He and wife Julie and son Pierce, age 3, are golf enthusiasts. Delcourt came in 2nd in the GA Golf Tournament in Velburg July 2. In his spare time, he enjoys family time, reading mysteries and the local lake areas in the summer.



training area for peace support operations as well as maneuver training, and leads the combat training centers of the Army in recreating the complex battlefield.

On July 22, Lt. Col. James V. Matheson took command of the 282nd Base Support Battalion from Lt. Col. David M. Witty. He becomes the eighth commander for the 282nd BSB since its activation.

Witty leaves the battalion for his next assignment at the Special Operations Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Matheson comes to the BSB from the Training Support Activity, Europe, 7th Army Training Command, Grafenwoehr, where he served as Deputy Chief. He received his commission in Armor Branch in May 1986 from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. He also holds a master's in Applied Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The 282nd Base Support Battalion was activated in October 1991 to provide base operations support to the Combat Maneuver Training Center. Although the battalion has a direct support mission to the CMTC, it is organized as part of the U.S.A. Garrison Grafenwoehr and the Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E).

The battalion provides support to Soldiers who conduct training at the CMTC and for deployments. The battalion takes care of Soldiers by managing troop billeting, logistical support and quality of life services which enables the rotational units to focus on quality training.

The battalion is also the core of the Hohenfels military community — planning and executing base operations, quality of life programs and force protection to more than 6,500 Soldiers.

Ed Center grads honored

Education is not just facts and figures, formulas and theories, strategy and concise answers — it is the stimuli that helps a person change and grow. These people then share this information with others and strive to promote a better society. On June 15, at the Army Education Center, the 282nd BSB commander presented recent Hohenfels graduates with the BSB coin in recognition of their academic achievements while stationed at Hohenfels. The graduates were applauded by family members and education staff for their personal sacrifices and exceptional achievement. The graduates below were recognized at the ceremony:

Ricky D. Alexander, A.A./General Studies, Troy University
Sean S. Bell, M.A./Human Relations, University of Oklahoma (OU)
Norman J. Dick Jr., B.S./Business Administration, University of Maryland University College (UMUC)
David Brocious, A.S./General Studies, Central Texas College
Steven Fugate, A.A./General Curriculum, UMUC
Angela Gaytan, B.S./Business Administration, UMUC
Fermin Gonzales, A.A./General Studies, Thomas Edison State College
Christopher K. Green, B.S./Human Resource Management, UMUC
Jason Jost, A.A./General Curriculum, UMUC
Alison Kempke, A.A./General Studies, Barton County Community College
Kevin Leavitt, M.S./Computer Systems, UMUC
James A. Martinez, B.S./Management Studies, UMUC
Fernando Mateo, Ph.D./Organizational Leadership, Univ. of Oklahoma (OU)
Lola J. Scotland, B.S./Psychology, UMUC
Stephanie Smith, A.A./General Curriculum, UMUC.

(Graduates not able to attend were Pauline Carmack, A.A., General Curriculum & B.S., Business Administration, UMUC; Monica Chwojdak, A.A., Gen. Curriculum, UMUC; Dean S. DeNoma, A.A., Business & Management, UMUC; Melvin R. DeRosin, B.S., Psychology, UMUC; Mark L. Dotson, M.A./Human Relations,



Above, Lt. Col. James Matheson receives the battalion guidon from Col. Brian Boyle (at right), commander, U.S.A. Garrison, Grafenwoehr.



OU; Sandra Gillespie-Bernecker, B.A., Business & Management, UMUC; Nicole Galusha, A.A., Gen. Curriculum, UMUC; Jacqueline E. Larkowich, M.A./Human Relations, OU; Russell M. Livingston, M.A., Economics; Teodora P. Mocanu, B.S., Management Studies, UMUC; Daniel N. Matuskey, A.A., Gen. Curriculum, UMUC; David A. Mulholland, M.A./Human Relations, OU; Patrick Peake, A.A., General Studies, American Military University; Darman C. Place, M.A./Human Relations, OU; Dexter K. Ransom, M.A./Human Relations, OU; Paul K. Schwarz, A.A., Gen. Curriculum, UMUC; Shawn Sudduth, B.A., Business & Management, UMUC; Scott Whited, A.A., Computer Studies, UMUC; Archie Williams, M.A./Education; Troy University.)

Lt. Col. Witty commended the graduates on their success of balancing mission, private life, and academic life. Many people sign up to start the course, but it takes dedication to stay the course and finish with a degree. The next graduate recognition will be in June 2006, and hopefully the commander will be presenting some of you that read this article with your college degree!

Employees recognized for their service

Length of Service Awardees

Name	Domicile	Yrs of Service
Eichenseer, Wilhelm	Hoermannsdorf	45
Dresleras, Algirdas	Hohenfels	35
Steger, Walter	Wiesent	35
Wittl, Peter	Kallmuenz	30
Roesner, Alois	Beratzhausen	30
Fleischmann, Hans	Hohenfels	30
Mayhew, Gerald E.	Hohenfels	30
Coleman, James C.	Hohenfels	30
Ham, James T.	Hohenfels	30
Weigert, Otto	Hohenfels	25
Meier, Christa	Burglengenfeld	25
Koller, Albin	Schmidmuehlen	25
Bleier, Hubert	Hohenfels	25
Poehlmann, Ludwig	Erlangen	25
Wittl, Norbert	Hohenfels	25
Marshall, Kevin R.	Hohenfels	25
Falls, Veronika	Kallmuenz	20
Wein, Josef	Schmidmuehlen	20
Voegerl, Josef	Parsberg	20
Stoeckl, Guenter	Hohenfels	20
Muenchsmeier, Josef	Hohenfels	20
Midleja, Roman	Kaiserslautern	20
Wagner, Bruno	Konzell	20
Stiegler, Georg	Hohenfels	20
Schmid, Gerhard	Lupburg	20
Nutz, Albert	Parsberg	20
Hiltl, Max	Hohenfels	20
Dietrich, Helmut	Schmidmuehlen	20
Taylor, Robert A.	Hohenfels	20
Zwickl, Johann	Parsberg	15
Wimmer, Dietmar	Parsberg	15
Weigert, Josef	Rieden	15
Vetter, Alois	Duggendorf	15
Pretzl, Alois	Lupburg	15
Hofmann, Anton	Hohenfels	15
Hierl, Willibald	Hoermannsdorf	15
Hiltl, Birgit	Hohenfels	15
Dorfner, Ronald	Sinzing	15
Dechant, Albert	Burglengenfeld	15
Berghofer, Michael	Lupburg	15
Lautenschlager, Johann	Burglengenfeld	15
Koller, Sophia	Schmidmuehlen	15
Pfab, Hermann	Laaber	15
Reitmeier, Fritz	Laaber	15
Kreupl, Alois	Hohenfels	15
Koller, Michael	Hemau	15
Tillman, Erika	Hemau	15
Weber, Bernhard	Sinzing	15
Muenchsmeier, Dieter	Lupburg	15
Kreupl, Gottfried	Hohenfels	15
Jones, Lee A.	Hohenfels	15
Raedge, Karin	Parsberg	10
Reel, Sonja	Beratzhausen	10
Henze, Gert	Taucha	10
Nobis, Juergen	Batzhausen	10
Cavanaugh, Cornelia	Hohenfels	10
Baumgartl, Konrad	Wischenhofen	10
Lipperer, Wolfgang	Lupburg	10
Fiegl, Stefan	Beratzhausen	10
Ferstl, Christian	Beratzhausen	10
Hiltl, Clifford	Hohenfels	10
Haust, Christian	Nittendorf	10
Suggestion Award:		
Bleier, Hubert	282 nd BSB, TSD	
Feuerer, Anton	282 nd BSB, TSD	



During an awards ceremony June 30 at the Hilltop Chapel Center, 63 civilian employees were honored with a Length of Service Award for their distinguished service years.

After a luncheon at the center, Lt. Col. David Witty, former BSB commander, thanked the civilian employees for the outstanding work they have done to support the military community in Hohenfels. Along with Witty, Lt Col. Christopher Wolfe, Operations Group, Command Sgt. Maj. William Ellenburg, 7th ATC, Hohenfels Mayor H. Bossle, Parsberg 2nd Mayor Horst Wycrsk and Velburg 2nd Mayor Peter Winter helped to pass out the awards.

Among the awardees, Wilhelm Eichenseer, DPW Buildings and Grounds Section, received an award for 45 years of service. The years of service for all the employees totals 1170 years. Besides the Length of Service Awards, two employees received Beneficial Suggestion awards. (See complete list at left).

Schützenschnur



Soldiers from Hohenfels were given the chance to participate in the Schützenschnur in Regensburg last spring where they learned from the German Army how to use their guns. This qualification is on a minimum of two German Army weapons. The award earned for learning to use these guns comes in three grades: gold, silver and bronze. An award ceremony took place June 10 where eight soldiers from Hohenfels earned silver medal awards and four earned bronze medal awards for their work and determination competing in these events. (Photo and story by Chelsea Hodges)



Above, Stephen Lang jumps into a new character during the *Beyond Glory* play July 12.

Beyond Glory an audience pleaser

The Hohenfels community was treated to a moving performance by Stephen Lang July 12. The play *Beyond Glory* was presented at the Community Activities Center.

More than 200 people turned out to watch Lang as he metamorphosed through the characters. He told "the personal accounts of eight military veterans who had been honored for their heroic deeds."

Lang stayed after the performance to sign autographs to a long line of members from the audience.

What's next for the community — here's a peek at upcoming entertainment:

August 10, **Jack Knife and the Sharps Band**, 7 p.m. at the Zone

August 18, **Solacz Band**, 7 p.m. at the Zone

August 26, **Comedy Tour, National Comedy Theater**, 7 p.m. at the Zone

August 27, **Military Idol**, 7 p.m. at the Zone

September 6, **Brickfoot Band**, 7 p.m., Warrior Field if weather permits

September 13, **Bravo Theater, Pvt. Wars**, 7 p.m., Tentative location CAC

September 15, Group, **Orlando Magic Cheerleaders**, 7 p.m. at the Post Gym

November 4, **Competition, Hohenfels Cheerleading Open**, time TBD, Post Gym

Watch the News Briefs for any changes in the entertainment schedule.

Summer safety sizzler...

The USAREUR 2005 Summer Safety Campaign is an ongoing, multi-faceted campaign that is about more than just Safety Day! This top-driven campaign focuses on areas that traditionally have caused unexpected and tragic ends to unit operations and family and community summer fun activities.

Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) fatalities and serious accidents have stayed at a high level for the past few years throughout the Department of the Army. Of the 110 POV deaths so far this FY, 33 were soldiers on motorcycles. The main causes of these needless mishaps? Failure to control speed and inattentive driving. Seatbelt usage is a huge factor also.

The *Click It or Ticket* banners and *Booze it and Lose it* campaigns are designed to make you realize that **anyone** can become a statistic if decision making is poor. To ensure new and interested motorcycle enthusiasts know their bike

and the special skills needed in this area, a Motorcycle Safety foundation riders course is being planned for the near future at the Hohenfels motorcycle driving range.

It is easy to forget that safety awareness should go home with you every day. Some ways to manage summertime risks on the home front are:

- Get a copy of the **Summer Safety Booklet** from the 282 BSB Safety Office; find out where the 'authorized' off-post swimming locations are.

- **Bicycle Riders** should always wear helmets and bright colors or reflective stripes. They need to be alert at all times, realizing narrow, curving roads and oncoming traffic are a constant in Germany. Many bike paths are available — use them! Riders can be fined for a defective bike, not using the bike path and more!

- **Heat Injuries** can occur as temperatures mount. When moving or out in direct sunlight, the body can easily reach a heat 'exhaustion' or heat 'stoke' stage. Drink cool fluids, take breaks often,

and watch children and others for signs of exhaustion (headache, behavior change, lack of sweating if the situation progresses). Children or pets in car interiors can quickly overheat as well.

- **Outdoor Grilling and Lawn Mowers** pose special risks to all who operate this equipment. Take a few minutes to familiarize a young person with the particular hazards at hand, and supervise them, as you would any subordinate Soldier who is learning a new task. — *Peg Giller, BSB Safety Office*

Women's Equality Day celebration

On Friday, August 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the 282D BSB EO/EEO office will be conducting an observance to celebrate Women's Equality Day. The guest speaker is: **Chaplain (Maj.) Gail Porter, Family Life, 282nd BSB**. This event will be held at the 282nd BSB Dining Facility. All Soldiers, civilians and their families are invited to come out and join us for this celebration. POC is the EO/EEO office at 466-4426/2440/4102.

Battle of the Bands and Stars of Tomorrow

It might have been hot outside the Hohenfels Community Activities Center on Saturday 30 July 2005 but no-where as HOT as inside at the 100th ASG Battle of the Bands and Stars of Tomorrow.

As the evening got warmer the competition continued to heat up. It started with the solo female vocals of **Yani Jones** who was then joined in a vocal duet with **Ralph (Sam) Samuels**.

Amanda Atchley (MWR Marketing) also competed in the solo female vocal category and Ralph then proceeded to start the solo male vocals. His competition, however, in the form of **Sgt. Britt Boyer**, turned up the degrees in the category.

Not to be ignored the youth stepped up and **Jamie Lee Cox** (solo female vocal) and **Haley Fortner & Shanine Cabredo** (youth vocal duet) showed the adults that the next generation of performers is well on their way to being excellent competitors.

The instrumentalists then showed up and **Daniel Haynes** proceeded to entertain the audience with a self accompanied vocal. Competing solely on instrumental abilities, **Pfc. Phillip Gomez** performed magic on the piano and **Master Sgt. Fred Velez** showed what two hands, 10 fingers and six strings can do on the guitar.

The prelude to the full bands was preceded by the two specialty groups, **Sweet Kings, Spc. Kevin Grabowski, Master Sgt. Fred Velez and Jessie Cabredo**. Kevin then stayed around and joined **Pfc. Kevin Taylor** with the music of **Kevin & Kevin**.

It was now down to the bands. The Battle of the Bands was underway.

Ironically, with some last minute changes, due to mission support, **Jessie Cabredo's** band, **5 Tone Vibes (Jessie Cabredo-Vocals, Pfc. Ryan Williams – Bass, Master Sgt. Fred Velez – Lead Guitar, Spc. Kevin Grabowski – Drums, and Pfc. Kevin Taylor - Guitar) and Master Sgt. Fred Velez's** band "**Whatever!**" (**Velez –Lead Guitar, William s– Bass, Grabowski – Drums, Lemire – Bass, Cabredo – Lead Vocals**) began to look very similar but both performed with distinctly different musical styles.

The evening ended with over two hours of music and competition. All entries will also be competing in the IMA-E Entertainment 26th Anniversary Battle of the Bands and Stars of Tomorrow competition to be held August 20 and 21 at the Katterbach Fitness Center in Ansbach.

— *Joanne Love, Entertainment Director*

KONTAKT Hohenfels

What is the Konkakt Club?

Kontakt Hohenfels is a German-American (and other International members) friendship club with fun events, recreation, education, community service and networking opportunities. It's a cultural exchange club for meeting new people and learning about another culture and language, based upon respect and tolerance without regard to differences in race, politics, religion, or ideology. Kontakt is for people of all ages who care about working to develop international cultural relations. The Club needs individual members who are willing to work and contribute ideas, skills, time, and talents while growing with the opportunities.

August

- 10 Bowling on Base at 7 p.m.
- 13 Children's bowling at 1 p.m. on the base
- 17 Stammtisch at Rathausstübl in Hohenfels at 7 p.m.
- 28 Linedance in Hohenfels Keltensaal at 6:30 p.m.
- Tour to the Walhalla in Donaustauf followed by a boats tour. Please contact Christina at 09472-83-4294



for reservation and more information

Movie night will depend on movie schedule

Preview Programm

Vorschau — Hiking to the Café "Kuhstall", Windshield tour through Post, Boat trip, Tour through the König Otto Tropfsteinhöhle (English speaking tour).

If you have questions about any of the events or club membership, please contact the Public Affairs Liaison at DSN 466-4294 or Civilian at 09472-83-4294.

Hohenfels Hurricanes Swim Team

The Hurricanes Swim Team is kicking off their 15th season. Below is a schedule of the meets and the teams we will be competing against. The team is open for swimmers between the ages of 7 – 19 and we are looking for new people each year. If you or your child has a desire to compete with some of the best school age swimmers in Europe, please click on the team's web site at www.hohenfels-hurricanes.org/ or contact Beth Hoeh, head coach, at bethhoeh@yahoo.com. The season is long and very rewarding for parents and swimmers.

DATE	LOCATION	COMPETITION
04 SEP 05	Vicenza, Italy	Vicenza, Aviano, Naples, Sigonella, Rota, Bamberg, Lakenheath
18 SEP 05	Home*	Wiesbaden, Bamberg
09 OCT 05	Bamberg	Bamberg, Berlin
23 OCT 05	Home*	Bamberg, Wuerzburg
13 NOV 05	Rota, Spain	Rota, Stuttgart
04 DEC 05	Berlin	Berlin, Rota, Shape
11 DEC 05	Home*	Bamberg, Stuttgart, Vicenza
08 JAN 06	Home*	Bamberg, Berlin, Wuerzburg
29 JAN 06	Bamberg(Divisionals)	Tyrolian Division
18 FEB 06	Riccione, Italy	(CHAMPS) All EFSL

Youth Sports

by Jerry Mayhew, YS Director

Coaches needed!

Yes, you're qualified.

Scenario: I received an urgent phone call asking me to coach some 10-12 year olds. The league was to return their sign-up money because they had no coach. After I told them no for the 4th time, "Hey, I am really busy doing other things that I need done," I got to thinking about those 11 kids, most of whom had no other activity to join and here they were signing up for a fall Soccer league just weeks later.

I had to say YES and entered into this agreement with the idea that the assistant coach/dads would ultimately learn and take over this age group.

Here's the point. The game wants and needs you for the fall Soccer program, not everyone has the experience of coaching soccer and it should not intimidate you! Pedigrees are for dogs, not coaches! Simply do what it takes to become qualified to coach youth players.

Okay, what does it take to become competent and qualified?

1. You have to love kids (not just yours)
2. You have to want to be a role model
3. You need to have perspective on winning and losing
4. You need to be organized
5. You need to find knowledge
6. You need a few tools

Can you handle items 1-3?

If so keep reading.

If not, please forward this article to someone else that can help a group of kids.

Item #4 - It's not as hard as you think. Have a written plan and simply stay ahead of the next chores, practices, games, etc. by using a 3 ring binder.

Item #5 - Youth Sports is in the business of Youth Sports knowledge. Check out our books, videos and certification classes. Parents spend a lot of money on lessons, so why not begin a library of teaching materials to use forever.

Item #6 - Consider fun tools to assist you. Start with a few—and add as your budget allows. Kids crave entertaining ways to learn. It's used in the classroom and on the ball field.

Finally. Some year soon, you'll run into one of your ex-players, all grown up. Undoubtedly he/she will still call you coach. And it will absolutely light you up! You may have been there during some of the best days of their life.

Chances are you will get more out of this experience than your players. You can do this and you are needed—Now don't talk yourself out of it. Be a Youth Sports Coach.

Hohenfels highlights



At left, more than 175 bicylists joined the Bike Ride June 18 through the Box. The bikers traveled from the town of Emhof onto Warrior Way and out Gate 1 to the towns of Hohenfels and Rohrbach and ended up in Emhof. The MWR staff set up refreshments at Melhaube for the bikers as they rolled through.



At center above, the winners of the German-American Golf Tournament in Velburg July 2. Below, revelers at the Army Birthday Ball June 16. The ball was the final event in a series of GA Partnership events.

